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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 225334

NODIS

FOL SEOUL 7810 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SEP 1, 1978

QUOTE S E C R E T SEOUL 7810

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OREP KS US KN
SUBJ: CODEL MCGOVERN: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO DPRK

REF: A. BUCHAREST 5986, B. STATE 221437

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES BEING INFORMED OF EVENTS DESCRIBED REF-
TELS AND CAREFUL MANNER IN WHICH MATTER IS BEING HANDLED.

2. ASSUME DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING INFORMING ROK EMBASSY TO
AVOID ANOTHER PING-PONG TYPE FLAP. EMBASSY BELIEVES INITIAL
INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ROKG IN WASHINGTON. WE WOULD
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LIKE TO TAKE BACK-UP ACTION HERE AS WELL. IF WE COULD HAVE
ADVANCE NOTICE OF TIMING OF WASHINGTON MOVES, IT WOULD INSURE
THAT OUR ACTION WAS NOT TOO LONG DELAYED AND OF GREATER IMPACT.

3. IN EMBASSY VIEW WE SHOULD BE AS FRANK AS POSSIBLE WITH ROK
ON THIS ONE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO PASS TEXT OF
BOTH REFTELS TO ROK EMBASSY SO THAT NO DOUBT WILL EXIST AS TO

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SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS WHICH APPLY.

4. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON A SUGGESTION WE THINK MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO OFFER TO THE ROKG REGARDING A POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF MCGOVERN VISIT, IT IT COMES OFF. RATHER THAN TRUCULENCE AND CONCERN THAT U.S. IS PREPARING WAY FOR TALKS WITH NORTH, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE, WE THINK IT COULD BE USEFUL TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ROKG MAKING A PUBLIC INVITATION TO MCGOVERN TO VISIT THE ROK WHILE HE IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH PAST ADVICE THAT ROKG SPREAD ITS NET A LITTLE WIDER AND NOT WORK ONLY ON THOSE AMERICANS WHO ARE VOCAL IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ROK. IT WOULD ALSO ALLOW ROK TO DEMONSTRATE IT HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM COMPARISON WITH ITS NEIGHBOR.

5. WE REALIZE ACTION SUGGESTED PARA 4 WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH GREAT DELICACY AND EVEN THEN POSSIBILITY OF ROKG PICKING UP ON IT WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS THAN 50/50. IF ROKG COULD BE PERSUADED TO ACT IN SUCH A CONFIDENT MANNER, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A LARGE STEP TOWARD BUILDING THE CONFIDENCE WHICH WILL BE EVENTUALLY REQUIRED IF THERE IS TO BE ANY MOVEMENT TO RESOLVE THE KOREAN PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: IT IS IRONIC THAT A SENIOR U.S. SENATOR IS CONSIDERING A VISIT TO PYONGYANG WITH ITS HUMAN RIGHTS

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PROBLEMS AT THE SAME TIME THAT 42 CONGRESSMEN ARE TAKING THE ROK TO TASK WITH CHARGES THAT HAVE RAISED NATIONALISTIC HACKLES HERE. GLEYSTEEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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